

Forehoe & Henstead Rural District Council.

THE
Annual Reports
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Senior Sanitary Inspector
for the
Year ended 31st December, 1944

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Forehoe & Henstead Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ended 31st December, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Forehoe and
Henstead Rural District Council.

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report for 1944 on the health and sanitary conditions of your district.

In addition I am now able to give the Vital Statistics for the years 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 inclusive, not previously published for security reasons.

I. GENERAL :—Area of district, 69,267 acres ; population, 20,950. Rateable value, £67,917. Product of penny rate, £292. Chief industry, Agriculture.

Number of evacuees in the District at the 31st December, 1944—882.

II. VITAL STATISTICS :

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births .....	.....	208	191	399
Legitimate .....	.....	189	167	356
Illegitimate .....	.....	19	24	43
Still Births :				
Legitimate .....	.....	8	4	12
Illegitimate .....	.....	1	1	2

These figures give a Live Birth Rate of 14.26 per 1,000 of the population—that of England and Wales being 17.6 and a

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population of 0.50. The Still Birth Rate for this district is given as 0.50.

Deaths from all causes total 237. Of this number 129 were males and 108 females, giving a Death Rate of 11.31 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.6 in England and Wales.

Table of details of the deaths arranged by cause sex and number :—

	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	1	5
Other Respiratory Dis.	3	1	4
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	2	2
Cancer	18	15	33
Diabetes	1	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	9	11	20
Heart Disease	34	37	71
Other Circulatory Diseases	9	7	16
Bronchitis	6	3	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	6	13
Peptic Ulcer	4	—	4
Other Digestive Diseases	1	4	5
Nephritis	7	3	10
Puerperal Disease (not sepsis)	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	1	5	6
Suicide	3	—	3
Road Traffic	3	1	4
Other Violence	5	3	8
Influenza	2	—	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	1	1
All other causes	11	8	19
	129	108	237

Maternal Mortality.—Puerperal Sepsis, nil. Other Puerperal causes—nil.

Infantile Mortality.—Deaths under 1 year of age, number 11.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illigitimate	0	2	2
	4	7	11

III. TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table gives the ages and sex incidence during the Year. A comparative Table for the War Years is given at the end of this Report.

Ages	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1— 5	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
5—15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15—25	.....	1	.....	4	.....	1	.....	.....
25—35	.....	4	.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....
35—45	2	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....
45—55	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
55—65	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Upwards	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Total	3	5	2	11	5	2	—	—

IV. THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

(Administered by the Norfolk County Council).

Monthly Sessions were continued during 1944 at Hingham and bi-monthly at Costessey.

Hingham.—Number of children, including evacuees, on the Register at 31st December, 1944, was 86 which included 47 new cases.

Old Costessey.—Number of children on the Register, 85, including 46 new cases.

New Costessey.—Number of children on the Register, 54, including 32 new cases.

General Provision of Health Services.—These are proving adequate with one exception, a serious one, a lack of skilled nurses and home helps. This has resulted in great hardship to the aged and where there are several young children in houses.

V. HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The shortage of houses is bearing very gravely on the whole Community by numbers of young married couples,

and those contemplating marriage, and where there is a growing family. Old people also, whether infirm or ailing, are forced to go into the Institution from lack of reasonable accommodation, and/or nursing facilities, as indicated previously in this Report.

VI. MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.

No effective legislation has come into force yet to deal with the well known anomalies existing in the production, retailing and distribution of milk.

The present state of the matter is unfair to producers and retailers, and a potential source of danger to the Community. The waste of milk too must be serious.

I have given in previous reports, my personal suggestions which could be referred to, and contend myself, that as the time factor is so important in getting samples to the Laboratory is there any insuperable difficulty in operating a Mobile Laboratory Unit to deal with samples and sampling at the farm itself.

The time and labour taken by your Sanitary Inspectors in collecting samples which prove useless must be considerable, and I would like to add that in my opinion, the Food Controller should consider the claims of aged and infirm to priority milk, as by eliminating waste in production and the more general use of dried milk, this should be possible.

VII. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

I have to report that a high percentage of children have now been protected. There is a danger however that parents in the absence of any prevalence of the disease, will become apathetic.

All children on attaining the age of one year should be visited by the Health Visitor, who should point out to parents the importance of having their children protected. At the same time, the Health Visitors should see that the Consent Form supplied is completed and forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health, when the necessary treatment will be promptly arranged.

While the figures in this small District are insufficient in themselves on which to estimate the reliability of the protection afforded by immunisation, they conform to the experience of the country as a whole, which is, that since the

campaign to protect children between the ages of 1 and 15 years was started in 1940, the incidence and mortality rates of the disease have gradually declined. At the present time both are reduced by about a half. The Ministry of Health record that in 1943 "the incidence of Diphtheria among children under 15 was $3\frac{1}{2}$ times greater in the non-immunised group than in the immunised group, and the chance of dying from Diphtheria was 25 times greater." These improved figures are more than maintained in the present year, but it is imperative that protection be afforded infants immediately they attain 1 year or this gratifying result will be lost.

VIII. WATER AND SEWERAGE, ETC. See Sanitary Inspector's Report which follows.

IX. VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1939 to 1944.

Table 1.

Year	Population	Live Births per 1000 Pop.	Deaths per 1000 Pop.	Maternal Rate Mortality per 1000 Pop. Live and Still Births	Infantile Mortality per 1000 Live Births
1939	20,010	16.6	11.8	5.9	50
1940	20,930	15.7	13.5	Nil	45
1941	21,680	16.4	11.6	2.83	50
1942	21,390	19.02	11.8	2.457	49
1943	21,060	17.18	12.06	5.5	44
1944	20,950	14.26	11.31	Nil	27

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS.

Table 2.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Jaundice
1939	30	2	—	—	1	21 (6)	1	8	—	—
1940	40	18	186	2	1	13 (11)	5	13	—	—
1941	51	10(1)	353	39 (2)	4	20 (5)	2 (1)	11	—	—
1942	48	1	21	54 (2)	3	16 (12)	5	6	—	—
1943	33	1	222	55	—	22 (7)	3 (1)	10	—	11
1944	56	4	76	106 (1)	1	8 (3)	5	9	—	38

Deaths indicated in brackets.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table 3.

ON THE REGISTER			NEW CASES			DEATHS			
Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1939	64	67	131	12	15	27	7	1	8
1940	57	58	115	7	9	16	3	—	3
1941	48	40	88	11	2	13	7	3	10
1942	60	42	102	21	10	31	8	2	10
1943	60	44	104	10	13	23	4	—	4
1944	61	46	107	14	7	21	7	—	7

In conclusion, I tender my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, each member of the Council, and the Officials for invaluable help given me at all times.

ALEX. P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Forehoe and
Henstead Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

The work of the Public Health Department was carried out under the guidance of Mr. A. W. Hobbs as Senior Sanitary Inspector until 31st May, 1944, from which date I have had the honour of acting as your Senior Inspector.

The report is not in the full peacetime manner, although there is every indication that in the not so distant future the work of the Public Health Department, will go back to normal, with housing as its chief aim.

During the year a large proportion of the work has been of an emergency nature, chiefly concerned with evacuation and war damage. All duties relating to infectious diseases, water supplies, sewerage disposal and food have been carried out and urgent matters relating to housing have been undertaken. In addition, your Sanitary Inspectors' time has been more than fully taken up by such matters as evacuation, including the housing of evacuees and the inspection and repair of requisitioned property ; war damage which involved the making arrangements and general supervision of first aid repairs to property ; matters relating to home protection, involving surveys and the issue of Air Raid Shelters, and matters relating to water supplies and arrangements for emergency supplies in the event of air raid damage. Also the Civilian Death Mortuary Organisation for the provision of emergency mortuaries and funeral arrangements was maintained in readiness and the Food Decontamination Organisation was reorganised and training intensified in conjunction with the Wymondham Urban District Council's Squad.

I should like at this point to express my thanks to the other members of the Public Health Department and also all voluntary helpers who gave up so much time to keep these Organisations at the ' ready.'

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

GEOFFREY A. J. BROWNE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Meat & Foods Inspector
and Building Surveyor.

WILLIAM A. JONES, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector, Meat & Foods
Inspector.

BERTIE G. B. SOUTH (H.M. Forces).

Sanitary Inspector.

GRAHAM L. HORNE (H.M. Forces).

Pupil.

Departmental Clerk.

JOHN ERASMUS.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The water supply for the area is obtained mainly from wells of varying depths, mostly shallow, with the exception of the Parishes of Costessey, Cringleford, Trowse Newton, Poringland, part of Framingham Earl and Upper Stoke Holy Cross, where the Norwich Company's Water is laid on, and the parishes of Hingham and part of Wicklewood and Hackford where water is obtained from the Wymondham Urban District Council's Supply at High Oak, Wicklewood.

The water supplies in the parishes other than those covered by main supplies, have, with the exception of isolated cases, been sufficient. The most acute shortage being in part of the parish of Wicklewood and it is hoped that in the very near future the piped supply will be extended.

The quality of the water varies considerably and in some of the flat and poorly drained parishes is of inferior quality. It is only in the parish of Hethersett, where it is known as a result of samples taken before the outbreak of war, that the water is polluted over a fairly wide area. It is hoped that this parish also will be provided at an early date with a main supply.

The water obtained from the Norwich Corporation is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action, and that supplied from the Wymondham Urban District Council's Works is softened and is also not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

The present arrangements by which water schemes may be extended in the parishes where there is already a piped supply in part, are not satisfactory, by reason of the fact that the financial guarantee required does not encourage property owners to incur the necessary expenditure and does not encourage District Councils to incur expenditure which would fall upon the General Rate.

A number of extensions could be made at an early date if some provision was made in the existing legislation for water schemes, whereby substantial Government Grants could be made available for any Scheme, however small, which would eliminate the balance between revenue and guarantee being thrown on the local rate.

The proportion of dwelling-houses and the proportion of population supplied from the piped water mains is as follows :—

Parish	Estimated Popu- lation of Parish.	Number of Houses	Number of Houses Suppl. from Mains.	Estimated. Popu- lation Supplied
Costessey	4,500	1324	823	2900
Cringleford	1000	309	287	950
Trowse	550	169	160	510
Poringland	900	296	121	400
Framingham Earl	200	72	18	50
Stoke Holy Cross	490	138	24	85
Hingham	1300	455	244	740
Wicklewood	718	215	9	36
Hackford	183	68	2	8
Caistor St. Edmunds	152	49	1	4

25 Samples of water were taken for the purpose of analysis by the Public Analyst and of these 16 were reported as fit for drinking and domestic purposes and 9 were polluted.

In the cases of the polluted wells, all were remedied by informal action.

Sewerage.—The parish of Trowse Newton has a modern Sewerage Scheme, completed, except for house connection in 1939. There are no other sewerage schemes in the District except in the parish of Hingham, where there is an old system of brick sewers with no disposal works, which have been the subject of a recent survey by the Council's Consulting Engineer, resulting in the approval of a proper Sewerage Scheme for the Parish. The Scheme cannot of course be carried out until after the cessation of hostilities.

The Scheme in Trowse Newton has worked satisfactorily although at the small Pumping Station which lifts the sewage into the Norwich Mains, there have been several breakdowns in the pumps, but fortunately no serious ones. Trouble has also been experienced from flooding in the pumping chamber and the position is being carefully watched. An electric pump has been fixed to keep the chamber clean.

The sewers at Hingham, already mentioned above, have not given so much trouble as in previous years, and it is hoped that before it is necessary to carry out extensive repair works, the new scheme will be in operation.

In all other parishes, house drainage is dealt with in the usual cesspool or septic tank and soakaway method, but it is hoped that in those parishes which have a piped water supply, sewerage schemes will be seriously considered as soon after the war as possible. In fact, it can be seen from the call on the Council's Cesspool Emptier that certain areas have reached saturation point. The cesspool emptier was engaged almost wholetime throughout the year.

SCAVENGING : NIGHT SOIL AND HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTIONS.

The only Parish in the District covered by the Local Authority is Hingham, where the arrangements for night-soil and household refuse collection have been carried out satisfactorily by the Contractor.

In Cringleford, there is a small private scheme for refuse collection but this does not cover the whole parish.

In Trowse Newton, Messrs. J. & J. Colman, Ltd., Crown Point Estate Company, provide for a night-soil collection.

The urgent necessity for properly organised schemes in the parishes already mentioned and also the parish of Costessey, has been discussed by the Council and preliminary investigations have been carried out with a view to purchasing the necessary Vehicle(s), employment of staff and the establishment of a Central Depot and Controlled Tip.

Milk.—The number of Registered Cowkeepers on the Register at the end of the year was 279. It is impossible to keep the Register completely up to date owing to the failure on the part of most Cowkeepers to notify the Local Authority of changes of occupation.

58 Accredited Producers' Licences were granted during the year by the District Council as agents for the Norfolk County Council, and the Norfolk County Council granted 9 "T.T." Licences to Producers.

122 Samples were taken from Accredited herds and of these 108 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test and 16 failed to satisfy the test. These figures include repeat samples and as a result of failures of samples, 3 Licences were suspended.

As in other years the number of failing samples was greater during the warmer weather. It was noted that practically no trouble occurred on farms where the cooling of milk was carried out immediately after milking and where milk could be cooled to a low temperature. In the very hot weather, clean milking and efficient sterilisation of utensils seems to be of no avail if cooling of the milk is unsatisfactory. 249 Bulk Samples of milk were taken under the County Council's Scheme of testing for Tubercle Bacilli and 3 positive results were reported, as a result of which 3 cows were slaughtered. 9 Cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, as a result of clinical Veterinary Inspections.

During the year further strides, although small ones, have been made towards the production of more Tuberculin Tested milk, but unless the country is prepared to tackle the problem much more boldly and make greater sacrifices in the loss of cattle reacting and give adequate compensation to owners, it will be many, many years before even 50% of our herds are "T.T." let alone 100%, as should be the case.

I am afraid I hold very little faith in Accredited Milk, as, provided the premises are good and the milk comes up to the required standard of cleanliness, any producer can obtain a Licence. The milk can be deficient in fats and can be teeming with tubercle bacilli and it is only when samples are tested for the last two items mentioned, that any action is taken, and even then the licence cannot be suspended for these reasons. In my opinion, whilst agreeing with the need for strict cleanliness, milk should not be designated unless it satisfies both the cleanliness test, the fats and solids test and in addition is from a Tuberculin Tested herd.

Another point which I suggest should receive the immediate attention of the Government Departments concerned, is the disposal of reactors from "T.T." herds. It should be unlawful to dispose of a reactor without notification of the fact and the movement of all such animals should be under the strictest control.

The general standard of cleanliness in Cowsheds and Dairies has suffered in many cases owing to labour difficulties, not only in lack of labour but in cases where farmers dare not complain to the men for fear of losing their services. As a result of this, more and more milking machines are being installed. These are satisfactory only in those cases where the producer realises that the mechanical machine needs the same strict supervision in methods and cleansing, as is the case in hand milking, in order to produce clean milk.

There are still a number of small cowsheds in the District which need reconstructing on more modern lines and it is hoped that these can be dealt with when the time is more favourable.

Meat and other Foods.—Since 1941, when the Government closed all Slaughterhouses, except for a small number which have operated under the Ministry of Food, the killing of animals has taken place only at the Norwich Co-operative Society's Abattoir at Swardeston. The amount of killing which takes place necessitates the attendance of an Inspector on almost every day in the week, and the following figures give details of the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned :—

The numbers of animals slaughtered during the year are as follows :—

Bulls.	Cows.	Bullocks.	Heifers.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pork Pigs.	Boars & Sows.
78	1225	2889	505	2568	2871	2254	799

100% inspections were carried out and the following meat was condemned :—

BEEF.

		Weight.			
		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
51	Cows (Tuberculosis)	11	19	3	12
1	Cow (Septicaemia)		6	1	0
1	Cow (Septic Metritis)		4	0	0
1	Cow (Oedema)		4	2	15
1	Cow (Septic peritonitis)		4	0	0
1	Cow (Extensive bruising)		4	3	24
9	Heifers (Tuberculosis)	2	3	3	22
1	Heifer (Pyaemia)		1	1	10
1	Heifer (Septic pericarditis)		5	1	12
1	Heifer (Septicaemia)		1	0	8
1	Heifer (Septic metritis)		4	3	1
14	Bullocks (Tuberculosis)	3	19	2	27
2	Bullocks (Septicaemia)		9	1	24
2	Bullocks (Septic pericarditis)		11	0	0
1	Bullock (Septic peritonitis)		5	0	9

VEAL.

1 Calf (Moribund)		1	12
2 Calves (Tuberculosis)	2	3	21
1 Calf (Umbilical Pyaemia)		2	4

PORK.

7 Sows (Tuberculosis)	14	1	11
1 Sow (Pyaemia)	1	1	10
2 Sows (Emaciation)	1	3	4
1 Sow (Swine Fever)	2	1	16
2 Sows (Erysipelas)	4	1	1
1 Sow (Dropsy)	2	1	0
1 Boar (Emaciation)		3	16
1 Boar (Swine Fever)	3	2	8
8 Pigs (Tuberculosis)	6	2	12
2 Pigs (Septic peritonitis)	1	2	16
2 Pigs (Septic pleurisy and Peritonitis)	1	3	8
2 Pigs (Moribund)	1	2	10
11 Pigs (Erysipelas)	9	1	0
6 Pigs (Swine Fever)	4	3	8
1 Pig (Jaundice)		1	14
13 Pigs (Immature)	1	0	9

MUTTON.

1 Sheep (Moribund)			3	0
1 Sheep (Septic pleurisy)			3	6
Parts of Carcases and offals condemned for various diseases	20	4	3	1
TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED	44	13	2	15

Percentages of animals condemned for all causes :—

Cows.	Heifers.	Bullocks.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pork Pigs.	Sows & Boars.
4.57%	2.57%	0.66%	0.16%	0.07%	2%	2%

Percentages of animals condemned for tuberculosis :—

Cows.	Heifers.	Bullocks.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pork Pigs.	Sows & Boars.
4.16%	1.78%	0.48%	0.08%	—	0.35%	0.87%

This work was almost entirely carried out by Mr. W. A. Jones and I must at this juncture express my appreciation of his untiring efforts to ensure a 100% inspection of carcasses at the Swardeston Abattoir.

It would have been impossible for Two Inspectors to have examined the above numbers of animals if they had been slaughtered under the old system in widely scattered slaughterhouses, and it is to be hoped that centralised slaughtering has come to stay all over the country.

In addition, a large quantity of foodstuffs have been examined in shops and at N.A.A.F.I. Depots and it is regrettable to have to report that at one of the latter Depots, approximately 2 tons of various sacked foodstuffs were condemned as a result of vermin contamination.

Disinfections and Disinfestations. During the year 34 premises were disinfected after cases of infectious disease. Patients nursed at home were supplied with disinfectants.

Four premises were disinfested owing to bug infestation and of these, three cases were at premises occupied by evacuees.

Scabies also, was very prevalent. It was almost unknown in this District before the war. 76 cases were reported and it is known that in many instances, owing to the fact that it is not a notifiable disease, no information is received by the Local Authority. Benzyl Benzoate was supplied in all cases where necessary, and bedding etc., and premises disinfested.

HOUSING AND NEW BUILDINGS.

Housing will be number one priority of all post war schemes and it is difficult to visualise how existing staffs will be able to cope with the problem. As a result of the Hobhouse Report on Rural Housing, the Government have requested all Rural Housing Authorities to make, at an early date, a comprehensive survey of the housing conditions in their districts and to place all working class dwellings in one of five categories ranging from those dwellings needing no action under the Housing Acts to those where demolition is the only answer.

The housing conditions in the area are far from satisfactory. A great number of the dwellings condemned before the war are still occupied, either by the original tenants or by evacuees and a few are licensed by the Council under the Defence Regulations. One Clearance Area at Swardeston, consisting of four cottages, has been requisitioned by the Council in order that essential repair works could be carried out to keep the premises reasonably wind and watertight

until rehousing can take place. The experience so gained does not encourage me to recommend the Council to carry out the procedure in many cases, as it has been found that substantial repairs are necessary almost every six months or so.

Many cottages have become in such a state that serious consideration will have to be given, as soon as possible, for them to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. The great difficulty of obtaining labour and materials for repairs is a contributing factor and the next year or two does not hold much hope in this respect.

War damage is also responsible for the bad state of repairs of a large number of dwellings. War damage repairs are well advanced and it is anticipated that by the end of 1945 very few outstanding cases will be left.

All cases which have come to notice regarding repairs have been dealt with and in addition to informal action 28 Preliminary Notices and 3 Statutory Notices have been served upon owners.

New Building operations have been mainly confined to alterations and additions to existing buildings. In 1943 the District was allocated 4 Agricultural Workers' Cottages. These were built at Barnham Broom and were completed in April. In addition to these cottages, one bungalow was erected at Costessey, without sanction from the Ministry of Works and at the end of the year no legal action had been taken against the owner by the Ministries concerned. This case is to be regretted, it is not only unfair to other applicants whose applications were turned down, but it shews a serious weakness somewhere in enforcing the Regulations. One other permanent Bungalow was commenced during the year at Costessey, with, apparently the Ministry's approval and two Temporary Buildings were erected. Plans of 5 houses and 1 bungalow were approved.

There is no doubt that with the cessation of hostilities a large number of plans will be submitted by private enterprise for new buildings and it is hoped that legislation will be so arranged in order that there will be the least possible delay in building. In connection with the existing procedure for the approval of plans, it will be remembered that it is necessary for an applicant to obtain consent under three headings,

firstly, the Public Health Act, 1936, for the purpose of the Building Bye-laws, secondly, the Town Planning Interim Development Order and thirdly (in a number of cases) the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act. This involves at least two Authorities and at least three Departments, all of which have their separate Committees. Hence, in many cases, long delays are inevitable. Each Regulation mentioned is not actually connected in any way with the other two, and approval under one or two of the Regulations or Acts does not automatically give approval under the remaining one(s). The position, as such, is most confusing to applicants and most unsatisfactory to the Local Authority. I should like to put forward the suggestion that, firstly, one central Authority or Committee is formed to deal with all approvals necessary and that all Departments concerned should report direct to this Authority or Committee at one and the same time, and secondly, that disapproval under one or two of the Orders and Acts mentioned will automatically disapprove the proposal entirely.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS—SHOPS ACTS.

It has been impossible to carry out the normal survey of all premises registered under these Acts but with the exception of minor items they appear to be carried on satisfactorily.

It was not found necessary to serve any Notices. One Bake Office was extended on modern lines and improvements carried out in two other cases.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919 : INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The District Council are the responsible Authority and during the year a Vermin Destroyer was engaged. All complaints received were dealt with and in addition, a number of parishes were visited and treatment carried out. No complaints of poisoning of domestic animals were received.

Salvage.—The Council's Scheme for the collection of waste materials is carried out under the direction of the Public Health Department. A Central Depot at Hethersett is used to which all salvage collected in the villages is taken for sorting and bailing. One full time depot man is employed

and one part time driver for the Council's Van, which makes either fortnightly or monthly calls to every village.

The salvage is collected in the villages in most cases under the direction of the W.V.S. and the Scouts, all of whom have done splendid service during the war. Without hesitation I can say that, but for their help, very little salvage would have been collected.

The amount of salvage collected has shown an alarming decrease, especially towards the latter part of the year, due, no doubt to the rapidly improving war situation. This resulted in a financial loss. It is difficult to foretell what 1945 has in store in connection with salvage schemes, but if Refuse Collection Schemes are put into operation in some of the larger Parishes, the amount of salvage collected should keep a steady level.

The following are brief details of the amounts of salvage collected :—

			Tons	Cwts.
Paper and Cardboard	.....	.....	51	—
Tins	.....	.....	25	—
Heavy Iron	.....	.....	8	—
Rags, etc.	.....	.....	3	10
Rubber	.....	.....	3	—
Bones	.....	.....	8	—
Bottles and Jars	.....	.....	6	—
Total tonnage of salvage Collected			104	10
The revenue from the above salvage was			£523	0 0

General.—In conclusion, I should like to say that whilst the above report may appear somewhat lengthy, I have endeavoured to give a general idea of the many duties now resting upon a District Council's Public Health Department.

The war situation in 1944 greatly improved and it is confidently anticipated that during 1945 the " Cease Fire " will be given, both in the European and Far Eastern War Campaigns. With this in view, it is not too much to hope that with the safe return of the normal Public Health Staff,

it will be possible in 1946 to proceed with the normal peace-time surveys of the District and the Annual Report will contain all details given prior to the War.

My thanks are due to you Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Council, for the patience and consideration you have shown to the Public Health Staff during these difficult times, and also to the other Officials, especially to Mr. R. N. Jones, Clerk of the Council, for the assistance which has been afforded me.

G. A. J. BROWNE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Building
Surveyor

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